



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 2009

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

LT Jeff Bray  
USCG Commandant  
CG-0942  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Lieutenant Bray:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pacific Area Operations (CEQ# 20080520).

The USCG is proposing to develop and implement enhanced protective measures for marine protected species and marine protected areas that occur in the District 11 and District 13 areas of responsibility. The proposed action would establish a baseline of the significance of the environmental impacts of current USCG vessel and aircraft operations on coastal and marine environment; and identifying and analyzing alternative measures which could be implemented to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on marine protected species and marine protected areas. Alternative evaluated include: Alternative 1 - no action; Alternative 2 - improving local operating procedures, revise speed and approach guidance, enhance law enforcement operations; Alternative 3 - enhancing marine protected species and marine protected areas awareness training for USCG personnel; Alternative 4 - implementing a web-based whale reporting system; Alternative 5 - strengthening partnerships to facilitate marine protected species and marine protected area public outreach programs; and Alternative 6 - selecting a combination of components of alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 5 (preferred alternative).

EPA believes that this draft EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts. Moreover, the draft EIS does not identify any significant environmental effects that will result in this action. Therefore, EPA has no environmental concerns about the preferred alternative and has rated it as LO – "Lack of Objections".

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft EIS, and look forward to reviewing the final EIS related to this project. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Susan E. Bromm", is positioned above the typed name.

Susan E. Bromm  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities